



August 5, 2020

Mr. Peter Scholz
 Nunavut Planning Commission
 P.O. Box 1797, Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0
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Dear Mr. Scholz,

Agnico Eagle is preparing an amendment application to its Meliadine Type A Water Licence No. 2AM MEL1631 for the Meliadine Mine (the **Water Licence Amendment**). The Water Licence Amendment includes items that were the subject of previous positive NPC conformity determinations based on the April 2011 Meliadine Project Description (see NPC conformity determination of June 8, 2011, attached).

The Water Licence Amendment is to support ongoing operations and also to proceed with development of certain infrastructure required to mine Discovery, Pump, Fzone, WES-NORMEG deposits that were included in the FEIS (Agnico Eagle 2014) and included in Project Certificate No. 006, but were not part of previous water licence applications. The application also proposes permanent changes to TDS limits which were set for the 2020 discharge season at 3,500 mg/l (maximum average concentration) as per emergency amendment issued by NWB April 29, 2020 and approved by the Minister May 12, 2020. What follows is a detailed list of the components in the Water Licence Amendment application and confirmation that these items were part of the previous positive NPC conformity determinations and NIRB environmental assessments of the Meliadine Mine:

Current Approved Activity under Water Licence	Proposed Water Licence Amendment	Previous NPC Conformity (based on Meliadine Gold Project Description, April 11)	Previous NIRB Reviews of Meliadine Mine
Water Consumption 318,000 m ³ /year for Operations	Water Consumption increased to a total of 741,706 m ³ /year for Operations (increased water consumption due to increased tonnage from previously approved deposits)	Water licence amendment remains consistent with Section 2.13.1 of the Project Description, which stated "The estimated rate of water consumption will be based on the use of 200 litres per person per day and make-up water required for the mill. The total will be specified in the draft Environmental Impact Statement."	Water licence amendment remains consistent with 2014 FEIS - in the 2014 FEIS, the total freshwater needs for the Project was assessed at 2,168,100 m ³ /year (Agnico Eagle 2014, Volume 2, Table 2-27). Based on this, the additional freshwater volume requested as part of this application only represents 15% of the total volume assessed in the 2014 FEIS.
Laydown Area	Additional surface laydown and storage space in a centralized location to the portals	Water licence amendment remains consistent with general site disturbance area -	Water licence amendment remains consistent with 2014 FEIS.



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	and open pits is needed to proceed with mining from previously approved deposits	outdoor laydown areas are preliminarily described in Section 2.5.9 of the 2011 Project Description	
The detailed design report and IFC construction drawings for WRSF3 (Agnico Eagle 2020) were approved by the NWB at the end of March 2020.	<p>Updated waste management strategy (an extension of WRSF3 to allow for increased volumes of mining waste from mining the additional deposits already permitted by NIRB but not currently included in the Water Licence)</p> <p>Waste rock from the open pits and underground mining that will not be used for site development purposes will be transported to the waste rock storage facilities (WRSFs) until the end of mining.</p> <p>Two (2) WRSFs are planned for the Project: WRSF1 and WRSF3.</p> <p>The previous WRSF2 has been removed and the WRSF3 has been extended.</p> <p>Ore stockpile 2 was also extended into the previous WRSF2 footprint.</p> <p>Laydown area to support open pit operation was added on the previous WRSF2 and P-Area Footprint.</p>	Water licence amendment remains consistent with project disturbance described in the 2011 Project Description .	Water licence amendment remains consistent with 2014 FEIS.



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<p>Site access roads to support mining</p>	<p>Construction of site access roads to future deposits (Discovery, Pump, Fzone and Wes-Normeg deposits)</p>	<p>Water licence amendment remains consistent with road access and routes described in the 2011 Project Description and include spur roads from Fzon, Discovery, Wes-Normeg, and Pump deposits.</p>	<p>Water licence amendment remains consistent with 2014 FEIS. The footprint for areas assessed as part of FEIS (Agnico Eagle 2014) included for Discovery, Pump, Fzone, and Wes-Normeg deposits.</p> <p>The potential for environmental effects from the development and construction activities associated with site access roads (e.g., new crossings, road widening) were assessed in the 2014 FEIS, specifically for hydrology and fish and fish habitat (Agnico Eagle 2014). The potential effects related to navigability, hydraulics, and fish passage and required mitigations were discussed in the Sections 7.3.2 (hydrology) and Section 7.5.5 (fish) (Agnico Eagle 2014). The FEIS concluded that these development and construction activities had no linkage or minor pathways. The development and construction of site access roads described under this amendment are expected to be as described in the environmental assessment; therefore, no added potential for environmental effects are expected.</p>
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<p>Discharge criteria from CP1 to Meliadine Lake - MAC TDS EQC in the Water Licence of 1,400 mg/L TDS referenced at Part F, Item 3</p> <p>During 2020 discharge season, up to 3,500 mg/L (MAC) TDS discharge was permitted per emergency amendment issued by NWB April 29, 2020 and approved by the Minister May 12, 2020.</p>	<p>As per Phase 3 of the Water Quality Management and Optimization Plan Rev2 will provide supporting rationale for revising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the maximum average concentration (MAC) and maximum grab concentration (MGC) for discharge from CP1 (i.e., effluent quality criteria; EQC) for TDS to Meliadine Lake; and the benchmark TDS concentration to be achieved at the edge of the mixing zone in Meliadine Lake, which would also be consistent with the site-specific water quality objective for longer-term management of the receiving environment of Meliadine Lake 	<p>Proposed water license amendment remains consistent with Site Water Management strategy described at Section 2.13 of 2011 Project Description.</p>	<p>Proposed water licence amendment remains consistent with 2014 FEIS as it assessed and determined that no significant change to the water quality of the receiving environment would occur.</p> <p>The FEIS considered a higher TDS concentration than currently approved as a MAC (3,500 mg/L), and found that the TDS concentration at the edge of the mixing zone would more than adequately meet the threshold set for TDS.</p> <p>All future discharges will continue to comply with applicable regulatory requirements including the <i>Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations</i> (MDMER) and the final Water Licence terms and conditions, in accordance with the FEIS.</p>
<p>Current security \$49,555,000</p>	<p>Update to Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan to reflect new infrastructure and increase of an additional \$7.4 million to account for new infrastructure</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>n/a</p>



We request that NPC confirm by direct email to the NWB (copied to Agnico Eagle) that no further determinations are required by NPC in order for NWB to proceed and process the Amendment Application. Can you please let me know if you require any further information to issue this confirmation?

As Agnico Eagle hopes to proceed with the application as soon as possible in order to ensure sufficient time for approval before May 2021, your timely consideration of this request would be much appreciated. If it is needed, I can make myself available this week to review our application with you in more detail

Sincerely,

Michel

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michel Groleau", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michel Groleau
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